

North Carolina Envirothon

2013 Annual Report



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NC Envirothon Program

"A Natural Challenge" says it all. The Envirothon is a fun, hands-on, natural science academic event that engages and challenges students to think critically about the natural world and their role in it.

The Envirothon combines in-class studies with outdoor training to help students learn and experience more about soils and land use, forestry, aquatic ecology, wildlife/habitat and current environmental issues.

The year-long curriculum emphasizes teamwork and higher order thinking skills such as analysis and interpretation, and now includes an oral component for high school students to help develop assessment and communication skills.

For more information, please check out the NC Envirothon on the web at www.ncenvirothon.org

Mission Statement

Provide and promote leadership in the knowledge of natural resources by offering a quality education program in: soils/land use, forestry, aquatic ecology, wildlife/habitat and current issues to the teachers, students and citizens of North Carolina.

Vision

That all students have a basic, scientific knowledge of natural resources to help them become environmentally aware citizens who are able to make good decisions as adults.



NC Envirothon Committee

John Peeler—Chair

Rich Hayes—Vice Chair

Steve Bennett— 2013 Program Coordinator

Sandra Weitzel—Middle School Coordinator

Ralston James—Division SWC

Pam Stroupe—Association SWCD

Stuart Lee—NRCS Representative

Jennifer Brooks—NCCDEA Representative

Phil Ross—Host County Representative

Jason Davis—FFA Representative

Leanna Staton—Area 1 Representative

Gail Heathman—Area 1 Representative

Kelly Hoke—Area 2 Representative

Leslie Meadows—Area 2 Representative

Millie Langley—Area 3 Representative,
committee Secretary

Gail Hughes—Area 3 Representative

Charles Bass—Area 4 Representative

Susan Woodard—Area 4 Representative

Janet Stallings—Area 5 Representative

Gladys Owens—Area 5 Representative

Pam Hawkins—Area 6 Representative

Mamie Caison—Area 6 Representative

Joanna McPhatter—Area 7 Representative

Kay Bullard—Area 7 Representative

Andy Miller—Area 8 Representative

Dennis Testerman—Area 8 Representative

Message from Committee Chair

As a NCSWCD Supervisor I would like to thank everyone throughout the state who volunteered their time and talents during this years Envirothon competition. The 23rd Annual North Carolina Envirothon Competition held in Cedar Rock Park was again a successful event. The stormy weather that threatened on April 19th and caused the Oral Presentation to be cancelled was a major setback but nice weather arrived on the 20th for the remainder of the event. Competition was keen but the Davidson County Home School team prevailed. I would like to extend a special thanks to the members of the State Envirothon Committee for their tireless efforts throughout the year making the Annual Envirothon events so successful. These dedicated resource professionals certainly raise the bar in Envirothon competition.

John Peeler

NC Envirothon Chair



NC Envirothon's new look!

In advance of the 2013 competition year, the NC Envirothon website got a new look and layout makeover. New features have been added with a (hopefully) more user friendly format for finding what you need.

www.ncenvirothon.org

NC Envirothon's Hats for sale

To raise funds for the NC Envirothon, the committee had hats for sale at the 2013 event. A limited number were available this year, but they were such a hit, that more merchandise will be on sale at next year's Envirothon!



Message from the Program Coordinator

Congratulations to everyone – students, advisors, resource professionals, sponsors, volunteers, and all in the Conservation Partnership! We've just completed the 23rd North Carolina Envirothon!

I am pleased to be writing this message to you, but saddened to be replacing Steve Bennett who has been the Envirothon Program Coordinator since its inception in North Carolina. Steve has been deservedly honored in both the North American Envirothon and the North Carolina Envirothon halls of fame for his contributions to the international and state Envirothon programs.

Steve Bennett has taken on an enhanced role as Regional Coordinator for 34 soil and water conservation districts and is relinquishing

some of his state wide educational duties to me. I know that the Envirothon is close to his heart, and that he will continue to be one of our faithful volunteers!

The North Carolina Envirothon has come a long way since Steve and that initial committee planned and held that first Envirothon with five teams participating. This year over 300 teams competed across the state in area Envirothon competitions. It is exciting to know that some of the current team advisors and teachers participated in the Envirothon when they were students.

Past Envirothon students continue to be in touch through our Alumni update page at www.ncenvirothon.org. They are telling a great story about how the

Envirothon has changed their life goals and directed them to an environmental science field of study/work. This is good to hear and is one of the reasons the Envirothon was started in 1991. I encourage our Alumni to tell us their stories.

Looking forward to another great year for the North Carolina Envirothon!

Sandra Weitzel

2013-2014 NC Envirothon Program Coordinator

Thank you Steve Bennett for your 20+ years of dedication and service to the NC Envirothon!



Oral Presentations

Due to severe weather on the first day of the 2013 NC Envirothon, Oral Presentations were canceled before a vast majority of the teams could even be presented with the problem. But if they had been present, they would have been given the following scenario:

Team Role

For this exercise, your team will role play a group of conservation experts who have backgrounds in wildlife, forestry, pasture management, and water quality. You have been consulted by a farmer who would like advice on how to best manage this land for timber, cattle, and wildlife in a sustainable and environmentally sound manner.

Use your knowledge of the NC Envirothon resource materials to solve this problem.

You will be allowed a maximum of 10 minutes to present your recommendations. Please note that points will be deducted for presentations that are less than 9 minutes in length.

Problem

A farmer has recently purchased a tract of land along the Cape Fear River where he plans to raise 20 to 25 head of cattle and to manage the wooded parts of the tract for timber.

He has consulted your team to provide him advice on the best ways to manage his land for timber and

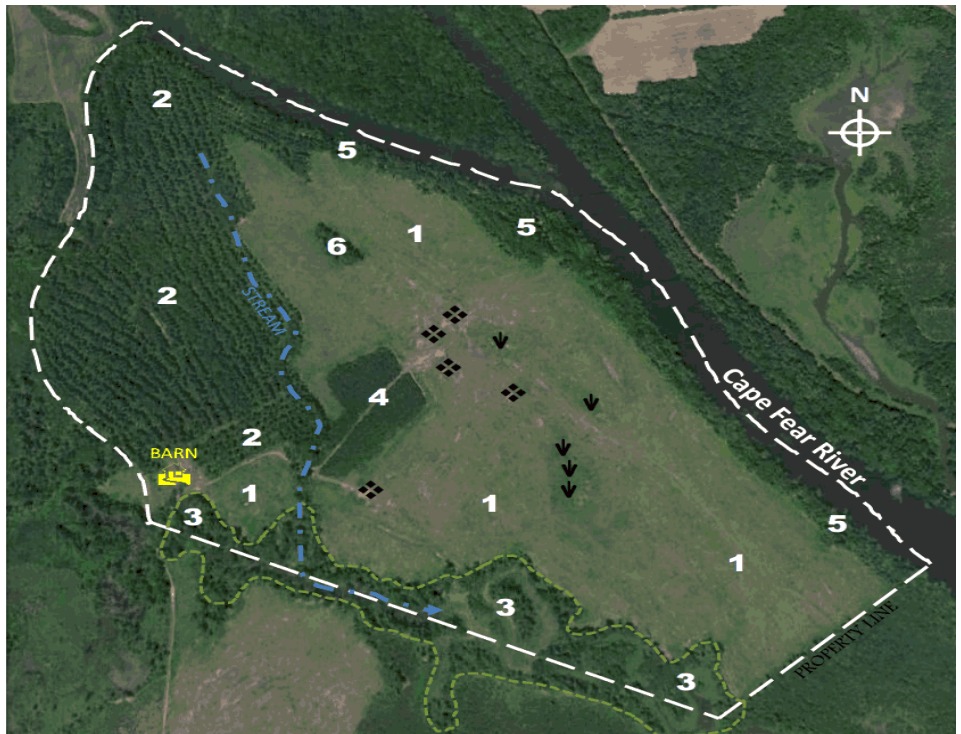
cattle while maximizing the land's value for wildlife habitat. He would like to hear suggestions on how to meet these goals in a sustainable, environmentally friendly manner.

Your team should review the information about the site and make specific recommendations that allow the land to be successfully managed in a way that:

1. Maximizes the land's value as wildlife habitat.
2. Minimizes impact on the local ecosystem.

The farmer has stated that he only needs 3/4 of what is now in pasture to feed his herd of cattle. He is open to suggestions on converting up to 25 percent of what is now pastureland to other uses.

To see the scenario in its entirety, visit the HS Oral Presentation page at www.ncenvirothon.org



Map Legend

- 1) Fescue Pasture
- 2) Loblolly Pine Plantation (29 years old)
- 3) Wetland and Open Water
- 4) Loblolly Pine Natural Regrowth (11 years old)
- 5) Native Mixed Hardwood Forest
- 6) Native Mixed Hardwood - Loblolly Pine Forest
- ↓ Wet Spot (high seasonal water table)
- ❖ Sandy Spot

0 500
SCALE
(FEET)

2013 Area Envirothon competitions across NC

During the 2013 competition year, Envirothon participation increased across NC. An estimated 1,610 students participated in the 8 area events.

The NC Envirothon program all begins in the individual counties across NC. Teams representing their local county and Soil and Water Conservation District will compete against other teams from their local area at one of 7 Area Envirothon competitions in March and early April of each year. (Areas 5 & 6 combine their events into one, the Coastal Envirothon.)

Each area competition will send their top 7 middle school and top 7 high school teams, as well as their top HS FFA team, to the state-level NC Envirothon competition in late April.

The following are highlights from the 7 Area events, including the total number of middle and high school teams to compete at each one.



Area 2
March 26, 2013
29 Middle School teams
11 High School teams



Coastal Envirothon (Areas 5 & 6)
March 19, 2013
18 Middle School teams
24 High School teams



Area 3
March 25, 2013
14 Middle School teams
21 High School teams



Area 7
March 21, 2013
5 Middle School teams
27 High School teams



Area 1
March 15, 2013
15 Middle School teams
24 High School teams



Area 4
March 15, 2013
20 Middle School teams
31 High School teams



Area 8
March 20, 2013
21 Middle School teams
27 High School teams

2013 NC ENVIROTHON winning teams

TOP TEN MIDDLE SCHOOL WINNERS

1. Organic Waste, Wilson 4-H Envirothon Club, Wilson Co
2. Endemic Species, Wilson 4-H Envirothon Club, Wilson Co
3. High Rock Hellbenders, Davidson Co Homeschool, Davidson Co
4. Venomous Flowers, Woods Charter School, Chatham Co
5. B.F.E. Llamas, Cannon School, Cabarrus Co
6. XJam2, HOME Enrichment Day, Cumberland Co
7. Leaping Lizards, Christian Homeschool, Nash Co
8. Anquished Purple Sparkling Spuds, Woods Charter School, Chatham Co
9. Soil Sorcerers, Lee Homeschool, Lee Co
10. Flaming Tardigrades, Hawbridge School, Alamance Co

TOP TEN HIGH SCHOOL WINNERS

1. High Rock FFA, Davidson Co Homeschool, Davidson Co
2. Sub-Chronic Exposure, Enloe HS, Wake Co
3. Blind Squirrels, Woods Charter School, Chatham Co
4. Glow Worms, Wilson 4-H Envirothon Club, Wilson Co
5. Killer Kudzu, NCSSM, Durham Co
6. The Five Muskraters, HOME Enrichment Day, Cumberland Co
7. Kamikaze Kangaroos, Triangle Homestead Group, Orange Co
8. Petrified Platypii, Edmondson Quadrangle 4-H, Johnston Co
9. The Other Guys, Bartlett Yancy HS, Caswell Co
10. Hornbeams, Edmondson Quadrangle 4-H, Johnston Co

TOP FFA TEAM*

BY FFA, Bartlett Yancy HS, Caswell Co

*As the top FFA team, 'BY FFA' will represent NC at the FFA National Environment and Natural Resources Career Development Event

1ST PLACE COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING PROJECT

MS: The Garden Girls aka Jumbo Shrimp, East Wilkes MS, Wilkes Co - *received plaque and \$100 for the team*

HS: KFC-415 Team, Nash Central HS, Nash Co - *received plaque and \$100 for the team*

2013 NC ENVIROTHON 1st place HS team

As the winner of the 2013 NC Envirothon competition, the "High Rock FFA" team from Davidson County represented NC at the North American Envirothon Aug 4-9, 2013.

The competition was held at Montana State University in Bozeman, MT. The 'High Rock FFA' competed against teams from 47 states, 9 Canadian provinces and 1 Canadian Territory.

The team did exceptional well, placing 19th overall (out of 57 teams) and TIED for 1st place in CEI with a score of 100! Congratulations High Rock FFA!



High Rock FFA team at the 2013 North American Envirothon

Thank You to all our Resource Specialists

Keith Walters, NC Division of Forest Resources
Philip Ramsey, NC Division of Forest Resources
Chris Hirni, NC Division of Forest Resources
Carmen Boyette, US Army Corps of Engineers
Dana Matics, US Army Corps of Engineers
Vincent Lewis, NC Division of Soil and Water
Jim Beeson, Soil Scientist
Sarah Morrison, NC Division of Water Quality
Holly Denham, NC Division of Water Resources
John Crutchfield-Duke Energy
Elizabeth Williams-Guilford SWCD

Diane Steltz-NC Forest Service
Paul Kalish-NC Forest Service
Carla Hunt-NC Forest Service
Andrew Snyder-NC Forest Service
Patrick Mitchell-NC DENR Div. Water Quality
Connie Adams-Foothills Soil Consulting Co.
Chris Murray-Sunset Farms, Alamance Co.
Tom Shepherd-Piedmont Environmental Center
Sheila Jones-Wake S&WC District
Kelly King - CEI
Laura Garner - CEI

Thank You to all our Volunteers!

The NC Envirothon would especially like to thank the numerous volunteers who helped us during the 2013 NC Envirothon. Without your support and contributions this program and event could not have been possible. We look forward to seeing everyone next year!

Pictured are just a few of the many, many volunteers who helped over the 2 days!
Thank you ALL!!!



Thank You to all our Oral Presentation Judges

Eric Alsmeyer

Toby Bost

Craig Brown

Jim Burke

Dave Dudek

Julie Elmore

James Ferguson

Dick Fowler

Tim Garrett

Jean Gibby

Kale Gullett

Kathryn Hadley

Milli Hayman

Kelly Hoke

Chris Hopper

Joe Hudyncia

Kelly Ibrahim

Elise Israel

Peggie Joyce

Martha Keating

Rudy Langley

Jacob Leech

Michelle Lovejoy

David Masters

Leslie Meadows

Katie Merritt

Karyn Pageau

John Peeler

Diana Rashash

Sandy Russell

Ben Russell

Steve Stadelman

Pam Stroup

Dennis Testerman

Leslie Vanden Herik

Shuying Wang

Norton Webster

David Williams

Dawn Williamson

Susan Woodard

Robert Woody, Jr.

FINALS JUDGES

Pat Harris, DSWC, Director

Greg Pate, State Forester

Chester Lowder, NC Farm Bureau

Tommy Houser, President, NCASWCD

Dr. Janet MacFall, Elon University

2013 NC Envirothon teams in action



Thank You to all our Sponsors!

Financial Sponsors

NC Association of SWCD--\$1500.00
Department of Soil Science-NCSU---\$1,000.00
Soil Science Society of NC---\$1,000.00
NC Electric Membership Cooperation --\$1,000.00
Duke Energy/Progress - \$1,000.00
NC Peanut Growers Association - Peanuts
Burlington Lowe's Foods - bags
1191 University Dr, Burlington, NC
Farm Credit Associations of NC - \$1000
Harnett SWCD - \$100.00
Wilson SWCD - \$100.00
Franklin SWCD - \$50.00

Partners

NC Dept of Agriculture & Consumer Services
NC Division of Soil & Water Conservation
HHB-Chapter of Soil & Water Conservation Society
Alamance County Parks and Recreation
NC Wildlife Resources Commission
NC Museum of Natural Science
NC Div. of State Parks
NC Div. of Forest Resources
NC Div. of Water Resources
NC Div. of Water Quality
NC Div. of Land Quality
NC Div. of Air Quality
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service



Scholarship sponsors

NCSU -College of Natural Resources---\$2500.00
Winning HS team scholarships
Department of Soil Science-NCSU--\$1,000.00
soils station scholarships

US Army Corps of Engineers
NC Office of Environmental Education
Piedmont Environmental Center
Foothills Soil Consulting Co.
NC Agricultural Education--FFA

NC Envirothon Trailer

The NC Envirothon was excited to unveil the new NC Envirothon trailer at the 2013 event. The trailer will be used to store event tents and various supplies. It also pulls double duty as a perfect backdrop for team pictures and was used quite a bit at the 2013 event. The trailer is available to all area competitions so look for it on the road coming to an event near you soon!

